

THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE

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Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
Stanford University
Stanford, California

Dear Joshua:

I have been meaning to write you in greater detail than the hurriedly scribbled note I gave to George Derbyshire last week when I was in Washington. I sent you the section I had drafted, which I had thought of as introductory to your paper, mainly because it was already written when your introduction came, and I thought it might suggest to you topics that had not been covered in your writing. But on looking over what you have done, I don't believe this is the case, and I like yours much better than mine. I had in mind stressing the international aspects of the contamination problems, and the need to reveal all details of procedures used in decontaminating each vehicle launched. I thought that the back-contamination problem needs prominence, but I believe you have covered this adequately, I also believe it is well to recognize the possibility for disappointment in what may be learned in a search for extraterrestrial life. Perhaps the positive expectations should then be elaborated upon on the broadest possible basis.

George and I thought that you and he and I might profitably spend a day either before or after the meeting on the 29th, if you can spare the time. We could in that time put the finishing touches on the biology part of the "Science in Space" report. Probably not much is needed, but in addition the new "Action Requested" items perhaps need attention, and the committee meeting may precipitate new matters. In any case, I will plan to come out Saturday, and can stay till Tuesday evening.

I am looking forward to my first visit to the San Francisco area, and only hope it doesn't rain (oops - pardon me!)

Regards,



H. K. Hartline

✓
FEB 16 1960

HKH:sjs